#### Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/10/2016

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 in the Barrington Middle School Auditorium. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Guida, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mr. Burrows, Mrs. Healy-Mills, and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Ms. Odjakjian.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea, Mrs. Anna Clancy, and Mr. John Alessandro. Student Representative Katharine Odjakjian was absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff present: Superintendent Michael Messore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Paula Dillon, Director of Technology David Burrows, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Susan Healy-Mills, Director of Administration and Finance Ronald Tarro, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque, and Computer/Network Technician Michael Fallgren.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. David Burrows led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington Public Schools has achieved the first and only Common Sense Media District certification in Rhode Island. Every school in the district, as well as every Librarian, and the entire faculty at Barrington Middle School will receive Common Sense Media certification.

Mr. George Finn has been named Athletic Director of the Year by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) and will be honored at the 2016 RIIL Awards Luncheon on April 14, 2016.

Ms. Kelly Crawford, Barrington High School Special Education Teacher Assistant, is the recipient of the 2016 Autism Support Staff Educator of the Year Award by the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project and the Sherlock Center on Disabilities.

The Barrington High School Computer Club finished second overall at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Providence College High School Computer Programming Contest. Team members include Sahil Mishra, Vivian Tian, William Yao, Andrew Sheinberg, and Advisor Mario Correia.

Hampden Meadows School Grade 4 student Connor Marley won first place in the Junior Section of the 2016 Winter Math Competition with a perfect score of 1,000 at the Squared School Academy of Mathematics.

Barrington Middle School Girls Basketball team ended the season with a 19-1 record and an Eastern Division Championship. The Barrington Middle School Boys Basketball team was undefeated during the season and finished a close second at the state championship.

Barrington Middle School Wrestling Team finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the Rhode Island Principals' Committee on Athletics state tournament. Three Barrington Middle School students placed in the top six: Zachary Leonard

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in second, Preston Quintanilha in third, and Benjamin King in fourth.

Barrington Middle School MathCounts team placed fourth at the State Competition and all individual students on the team finished in the top 100 in the state. Team members include Joshua Wang, Kevin Zhu, Jack Cheng, Jessica Liang, Venus Tian, Kelly Gorman, William Medeiros, Samuel Brock, Neel Patel, Elizaveta Zhukov, and Juncheng Quan.

Barrington Middle School Grade 8 student Ariadne Dulchinos won the school's Spelling Bee for the second year in a row and represented Barrington Middle School at the Rhode Island State Spelling Bee. Grade 6 student Shorey Wesen placed second.

Barrington High School LifeSmarts Team won the Rhode Island LifeSmarts consumer competition, earning the 2016 Michaelson Consumers' Cup and will compete at the national competition. The team includes Captain Eli Shea, Ian Fitzgerald, Michael Lamontagne, Andrew Sheinberg, Daniel Sheinberg, and Coach Mr. Samuel Schachter.

Barrington High School Future Business Leaders of America earned 59 Top Five Awards at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual State Leadership Conference. All first and second place winners qualify to compete at the National Leadership Conference. Awards included 23 first place; 11 second place; 10 third place; 11 fourth place; and 4 fifth place winners.

Sixty-five Barrington High School students competed in the State Debate finals tournament and several came away with a significant portion of the top awards. The team is led by Coach Ms. Wendy Davis.

#### **BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mrs. Healy-Mills introduced Barrington High School (BHS) students Ms. Lindsay Daugherty, Mr. Theodore Lentz, and Mr. Niccolo Palmisano who presented information and a video on the Unified Theater program at BHS. Mrs. Healy-Mills thanked the students and introduced Mrs. Elaine Varone, Special Education Teacher at BHS. Mrs. Healy-Mills also introduced Ms. Margaret Read, member of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Leadership Team who provided an update on upcoming SEAC community events and shared the SEAC initiative of fostering inclusivity at school wide events.

#### **Information and Proposals**

Mrs. Healy-Mills provided a report on the Pupil Personnel Services throughout the district that included distribution by disability categories, comparisons with other Rhode Island districts, statistics on child outreach screening, the collaborative system of focused monitoring, strengths of the Special Education team and opportunities for improvement relative to measuring Individualized Education Plan baseline data.

Mrs. Dillon presented an overview of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) previously referred to as Response to Intervention (RTI). The presentation included an explanation of a multi-tiered intervention framework, a summary of the three tiered model of student supports, the purpose of the building level teams, district use of data for continuous improvement, and district resources including procedures and protocols. Questions from the Committee included the benefits of the screening process, fluidity of the number of students serviced, and the expected timeline for complete transition from RTI to MTSS.

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Mr. Messore introduced the district's newly appointed Director of Technology Mr. David Burrows. Mr. Burrows outlined his priorities for the district in his new position including a focus on support for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing, the 1:1 technology initiative, and the staff equipment replacement cycle. The Committee welcomed Mr. Burrows and asked questions relative to learning spaces, digital learning, infrastructure, and possible future initiatives.

### **General Public Discussion and Information**

Mrs. Duenna Jones Karner, of 33 Clarke Road, provided a handout to the Committee outlining a culture of accountability, excellence, and transparency of information and applauded the Committee for their work to create a school culture of excellence.

Mrs. Jamie Burke, of 219 Promenade Street, parent, encouraged the Committee to move forward with a change in school start times.

Dr. Lisa Daft, of 5 Robbins Drive, parent, asked for Committee consideration for a delay in its decision to change school start times as there are more than 1,000 signatures collected from those opposed to a change.

Mr. Samuel Read, Barrington High School Sophomore, and Vice-President of the Sophomore Class, expressed disappointment that the student perspective has been ignored by the Committee in the decision to change school start times, and that students were denied access to appear on the Sunrise Show on the High School's Eagle News Network to discuss the topic of school start times.

Ms. Elizabeth Felag, of 114 Church Street, former Barrington High School student and recent graduate, noted that Barrington is in the forefront in education and should be pioneers on a change in school start times to reap the benefits of a later start time for students.

Mr. Christopher Sarli, Barrington High School Sophomore, asked the Committee to really listen to what the teachers have to say, noting that they educate the students to the best of their ability.

Dr. Bradley Bloom, of 311 New Meadow Road, parent, stated his opposition to a change in school start times, referring to the science as "junk science," stated that the Committee has not done its due diligence and asked the Committee to reverse its decision.

Mr. Emilio Cuebas, Barrington High School Sophomore, asked the Committee to take into account the teachers and students and how extracurricular activities will be negatively impacted by a change in school start times.

Mr. Ian Smith, Barrington High School Sophomore, and member of the swim team, stated that the new proposed schedule will throw the YMCA swim schedule completely out of whack and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to change school start times to keep Barrington swim teams successful.

Mr. Jason Leigh, of 8 Roberta Drive, parent, posed several questions for Committee consideration if a change was made to school start times including the impact to student schedules, and referred to the process established by the Greenwich, Connecticut community with concern to the lack of a similar process in

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Barrington.

Mr. John Rea, of 19 Lee Road, parent, urged the Committee to put the decision of a change in school start times on hold until the many issues and communication gaps are properly addressed through a process.

Ms. Haley Pine, Barrington Middle School Grade 8 student, noted that students could experience additional stress with a change in school start times and many teachers will not have time to meet with students after school. Ms. Pine stressed that outside commitments are more important than sleeping in for a student, and asked if the Committee considered students sleeping in more important than teacher support.

Ms. Liana Cassar, of 2 Hope Court, parent, thanked the Committee for recognizing that sleep is important for students and urged the Committee to follow through on its decision.

Ms. Erika Sevetson, of 408 New Meadow Road, parent, thanked the Committee for its decision to change school start times and noted that a delay in implementation will not decrease contentious issues.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, stated that there is a process and that process involves change and believes the community can adapt, adding that delaying implementation in school start times will be procrastination.

Ms. Kim Jacobs, of 5 Massachusetts Avenue, parent, stated that national statistics do not necessarily apply locally and asked the Committee for facts on student data.

Ms. Deborah Gold, of 1 Pierce Court, parent, strongly opposes a change in school start times as it will impact extracurricular activities which are as important as academics.

Ms. Emily Baker, Barrington High School Junior, noted that a change in start times will create limitations on practice times for swim and hockey teams.

Ms. Cynthia Rosengard, of 374 Sowams Road, parent, encouraged the Committee to move forward with its decision on a change in school start times and read excerpts from a Boston Globe article (3/10/2016) on the recent change in school start time at the Nauset Regional High School in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Gina Pine, of 479 New Meadow Road, parent, stated that the Health and Wellness Committee has failed to research the Barrington community and that many questions remain unanswered including assessment of transportation, if local day care facilities can accommodate the additional students that will require after school care with a change in school start times, how many teen accidents occur in the morning, as well as consideration for K-3 students.

Dr. Michael Johnson, of 28 Old Chimney Road, parent, asked that the community not question the decision making process, noting the repetitive conversation on school start times for a year now and the fact that the challenges with a change in school start time will be the same regardless of the timeline..

Mr. Paul O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, parent, stated that the process has been open and fair, and participation by community members after the fact is counterproductive.

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Ms. Chase Kazounis, of 3 Fairview Circle, parent, addressed Mr. O'Brien's comment and stated that she had naively assumed teachers and students were involved in the school start time discussion.

Ms. Kannetha Brown, Barrington High School Sophomore, stated that the issue of student stress needs to be resolved and suggested a coping skills unit be added in health class.

Mrs. Mary Roberts, of 11 Adams Avenue, Barrington Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher, and National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) President, noted the support of the United for Success Campaign, encouraged the Committee to work with the NEAB to find common ground on the impact to teachers' availability to continue in their roles after school and expressed support for statewide consideration of a change in school start times.

Mr. Jacob Whitman, Barrington High School Sophomore, thanked classmate Mr. Samuel Read for defending students as the student voice is not being heard.

Mrs. Jamie Triebwasser, of 139 Nayatt Road, parent, asked for a delay in implementation to a change in school start times, urging the Committee to talk to state legislators for all public school districts to be on the same playing field with a change.

Ms. Tracy Miller, Barrington High School Social Studies Teacher, stated that as a Professional Learning Community, Barrington teachers have a passion for education and students are devoted and stressed, but not stressed because of lack of sleep.

Ms. Isabelle Rea, Barrington High school Senior, asked that the students and teachers be heard on the decision to change school start times, adding that there is no justification for spending half a million dollars if students do not get more sleep with the potential added stress with a change in school start times.

Ms. Riley Kloc, Barrington High School Sophomore, stated that a change in school start times will only push activities and homework later which will result in waking up later but not getting more sleep.

Mrs. Pamela Lauria, of 56 Martin Avenue, parent, Nurse Practitioner and primary health provider, believes in the research and the importance of sleep and urged the Committee to make the start time change and begin planning for implementation.

Dr. Juan Cuebas, of 14 Short Road, parent, opposes a change in school start times, noting that research data is mixed relative to the impact on public health.

Ms. Isabella Ceseretti, Barrington High School Sophomore, and student athlete, expressed concern for the possibility of having to alter the number of sports she currently participates in as a three sport athlete.

Mrs. Laura Pippitt, of 14 Terrace Drive, parent, would like to see the implementation of a change in school start times now so that her children can reap the benefits.

Mr. Joseph Killilea, of 19 Martin Avenue, parent, as a teacher in another district whose school start time is 8:45 a.m., would like to see his own children reap the benefits of a later start time.

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Ms. Margaret Codola, of 16 Joann Drive, parent, asked why the discussion for a change in school start times is occurring if the district is doing so well with its current schedule.

Ms. Melanie Baker, Barrington High School Freshman, stated that she does not feel the change in school start times will be effective, as she feels more alert in morning classes than in afternoon classes.

Ms. Camille Ivory, Barrington High School Junior, opposes a change in school start times as stress levels will rise with a change to extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Anne Merlino, of 15 Mallard Cove Way, parent, believes that with a change in start time that students will only change their bed time and noted that no quantitative survey was done in 2012.

Mr. Stuart Moran, Barrington Middle School Physical Education and Health Teacher, spoke on behalf of the United Basketball Team and the possible impact to that important program and its students with a change in school start times.

Mr. Jude Kostas, of 16 Heritage Road, parent, referred to the Boston Globe article today on the recent change in school start time at Nauset Regional High School in Massachusetts, noting the benefits of a later start time and encouraged the public to respect members of a public body.

Ms. Riddhi Adhiya, Barrington High School Sophomore, noted that she is more distracted in the afternoon than in the morning, and suggested that a waterfall schedule may be more productive than a later school start time.

Ms. Grace Nadich, Barrington High School Sophomore, does not see a reason for a change in school start times as she is already a successful student.

Mrs. Kira Richardson, of 61 Whipple Avenue, parent, stated that the proposed new start time schedule is a disservice to younger students, adding that change is great only when it is fairly researched.

Mr. Anthony Arico Jr., of 166 Lincoln Avenue, urged residents to call their local representatives for a bill to change school start times statewide, and until then Barrington school start times should not change.

Ms. Kim Jacobs provided a follow up comment to note that the Committee has not addressed the many concerns from teachers and students.

Mr. Christopher Sarli provided a follow up comment to note that a fundamental part of any process is to reverse a decision, and does not see any reason why the decision by the Committee to change school start times cannot be reversed.

Mrs. Mary Roberts provided a follow up comment to suggest a High School 101 program for incoming freshman students and noted that the community mentioned in the Boston Globe article is not the same community as Barrington.

Mrs. Gina Pine provided a follow up comment to note statistics on teen car accidents that happen mostly

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between 6 p.m. and midnight, and urged the Committee to keep the school start times as they are now.

#### **Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a communications consultant to assist with technology services with an RFP submission deadline of April 14, 2016.

Mr. Messore presented an update on the school start time implementation plan including data requested by the Committee at the February 25, 2016 School Committee meeting. Mr. Messore stated that, under the current schedule, the earliest high school student bus pickup time in district is 6:26 a.m., the earliest elementary school student bus pickup time is 7:13am and that the longest bus run is 55 minutes. Mr. Messore provided information on the potential impact to continued availability of advisors and coaches, configuration of the current school day schedule, including enrichment and intervention opportunities and anticipated configuration with a change in school start times, potential impact to services across school buildings, estimated lighting costs for athletic fields, the impact to junior varsity athletics and off campus athletics, and bus transportation including special education transportation.

#### **Old Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody led the Committee discussion on the school start time implementation timeline. Mrs. Clancy suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee to include representatives of all stakeholder groups and proposed a delay in implementation of a change to school start times. Mr. Alessandro opposes a change in school start times with the current implementation timeline, and asked for consideration of a statewide policy and inclusion of alternatives to ease student stress in future discussions. Dr. Shea stressed the importance of the health and wellbeing of students and the evidence of the benefits of a later start time, the disservice to the many years of work by volunteers on the Health and Wellness Committee if a delay is considered, and pointed to the state law and to the School Committee's norms and standards, adding that the change would be an abdication of the Committee's legal and moral responsibilities. Mrs. Brody stated that the research is strong and compelling and that she believes that the decision to change school start times is in the best interests of current and future students in the Barrington Public Schools. Mrs. Brody stated that the discussion at this meeting relates to the implementation timeline for the school start time decision and not to the decision itself. Mrs. Brody thanked the Committee, including Student Representative to the School Committee Ms. Katie Odjakjian, for hearing over five hours of public comment to date relative to the School Start Times topic. Mrs. Brody noted that Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque has documented impeccable minutes for the record and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Committee for her contributions. Mrs. Brody stated that while we have an implementation timeline, we need a comprehensive implementation plan. Mrs. Brody suggested that a successful implementation process would include, but not be limited to, an action plan with the following components: 1) conduct a rigorous analysis of all operational components of the change in school start time, including the development of a detailed budget 2) create and maintain a comprehensive single repository for all school start time information that is readily accessible on the district website 3) conduct outreach with students, parents, faculty and staff with a proactive and comprehensive communication strategy 4) ensure equity in opportunities for student participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics and 5) explore opportunities for public/private partnerships to provide school based before and after school programs for students. Mrs. Brody stated that the Committee must ensure the integrity of the budget process with the incorporation of all critical operational costs, including potential savings, associated with the

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change in school start time. Mrs. Brody stated that we need a comprehensive implementation plan and that it is her belief that the only choice is to postpone implementation of the change in school start time to the 2017-2018 academic year.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve a delay in implementation of a school start time change to the 2017-2018 academic year to 8:30 a.m. for Barrington High School, 8:36 a.m. for Barrington Middle School, 9:05 a.m. for Hampden Meadows School, and 8:00 a.m. for Nayatt, Primrose Hill, and Sowams schools.

Mr. Guida asked for clarification that the motion is for implementation of an 8:30 a.m. start time for Barrington High School will begin with the 2017-2018 academic year to ensure that there is no question that implementation will begin at that time, and expressed disappointment with a delay as a later start time is important to the health and wellbeing of students, as well as the importance of later bus pick up times and shorter bus rides.

The motion passed 3-2 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion. Dr. Shea and Mr. Guida opposed.

The School Committee policy on Naloxone was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on Naloxone. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore presented the 2016-2017 school calendar for Committee approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented by the Superintendent. The motion passed 4-1 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Alessandro opposed.

#### **New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Ms. Dana Pagliaro, Barrington High School Business Teacher. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individuals. The student names were not identified publicly. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

#### **New Business from School Committee**

No new business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

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#### **Decision Items**

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

#### **Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016 will feature a report on blended learning and learning spaces, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM), as well as updates from the Building Committee and Health and Wellness Committee. Mr. Guida will also provide a Statewide Teacher Contract Commission report.

The bid approval for the Chromebook protective cases for the student assigned devices for the FY2017 and 2018 academic years will be included on a future agenda.

Mr. Alessandro requested a policy review of individuals who oversee students for extracurricular activities. Mrs. Clancy also requested review of the activities and athletics handbook for the expectations in advisory and coaching positions. Mrs. Brody requested that Mr. Alessandro and Mrs. Clancy provide feedback relative to a preferred timeline for discussion of the topics; the consensus was that these could be discussion topics at a summer meeting.

#### **Announcements**

Mrs. Dillon announced that the parent event on Navigating Our Digital Lives: In School and Beyond will be held at Barrington High School on March 19, 2016.

Mrs. Brody announced that she, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro are scheduled to meet with the Committee on Appropriations on March 22, 2016 to review the proposed school budget.

Mrs. Brody announced that she and Mr. Messore are scheduled to attend the Rhode Island Association of School Committees Legislative Workshop on March 12, 2016. Mr. Guida stated that he will be attending the meeting.

#### **General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas provided a follow up comment to express disappointment for a delay in the implementation of later school start times and encouraged the Committee to move forward at a heady pace to address the profound communication challenges and form an ad hoc committee.

Ms. Kim Jacobs provided a follow up comment to state that direct factual information has not been provided to validate a change in school start times in Barrington.

Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, parent, asked that the district not lose sight of the students who are not high achieving and urged the Committee to move forward with the process for a change in school start

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times to be fully ready for implementation in 2017.

Mr. Jason Leigh provided a follow up comment to ask that the Committee take the time to examine as many variables as possible for implementation of a change in school start times.

Mrs. Kathleen Crain, of 11 Briarfield Road, parent, stated that communication relative to the change in school start times topic has been horrible with free flow of misinformation and that the failure to develop an implementation plan is a failure of the fiduciary responsibility to students.

Mr. Nahum Mitnik, of 187 New Meadow Road, Barrington High School Music Teacher, representative for the National Education Association Barrington (NEAB), and parent, applauded the Committee for delaying implementation of a change in school start times to take a more in depth look at transportation and other issues.

Mrs. Jamie Triebwasser provided a follow up comment to ask if the funds included in the proposed budget for transportation costs associated with a change in school start time can now be allocated for additional support for budget requests by building principals.

Mr. Jason Leigh provided a follow up comment to ask if there is a district policy on protecting students privacy with the use of on devices in schools. Mr. Messore responded that there is a district policy on Technology Resources Responsible Use.

The School Committee agreed to not have an Executive Session at this time. The Committee is scheduled to meet in Executive Session on March 14, 2016.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:36 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.